

comprises] an acidic ester, an acidic amine bond or an enane bridge, and wherein said carrier is a protein.

REMARKS


The Amendments. Claims 3, 12, 14, and 17 have been canceled, without prejudice. Claim 1 has been amended; this amendment does not introduce new matter and is fully supported by the specification of the present application and the claims as originally filed. Therefore, entry of the amendments under 37 C.F.R. §1.111 is respectfully requested. The claims as pending are attached hereto as *Appendix A*.

Response To Restriction Requirement. In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicants hereby elect Group I, encompassing claims 1, 2, 4-10, 13, 15, and 16, which are drawn to conjugates which are limited to subgenera G1, with traverse.

No fee is believed to be due with this response. However, if it is determined that fees are due, please charge them to Pennie & Edmonds LLP Deposit Account No. 16-1150 (order no. 8484-077-999). A copy of this sheet is enclosed for accounting purposes .

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX A

1. A conjugate for distinguishing unhealthy tissue from healthy tissue comprising a fluorescent compound and a carrier, wherein the fluorescent compound and the carrier are joined via an acidic ester, an acidic amine bond or an enane bridge, and wherein said carrier is a protein.
2. The conjugate of claim 13, wherein the serum albumin comprises a human serum albumin.
4. The conjugate of Claim 1 wherein the conjugate comprises a plurality of carriers.
5. The conjugate of claim 1, wherein the fluorescent compound comprises an acid group, a hydroxyl group, an amino group or an aldehyde group.
6. The conjugate of claim 15, wherein the excitation wavelength is 630 to 850 nm.
7. The conjugate of claim 15, wherein the excitation wavelength is 320 to 450 nm.
8. The conjugate of claim 1, wherein the fluorescent compound comprises a porphyrin, a porphyrin derivative, a chlorin, a chlorin derivative, a bacteriochlorin, a bacteriochlorin derivative, a chlorophyll, a chlorophyll derivative, a phthalocyanine, a phthalocyanine derivative, a carboxy cinnamic acid, a carboxy cinnamic acid, a carboxyfluorescein, a carboxyfluorescein derivative, an acridic acid, an acridic acid derivative, a coumaric acid, a coumaric acid derivative an indocyanine green or an indocyanine green derivative.
9. The conjugate of claim 1, wherein the conjugate comprises a plurality of fluorescent compounds.

10. A method of producing the conjugate of claim 1, wherein the fluorescent compound and the carrier are covalently bonded thereby forming the connector.

13. The conjugate of claim 12, wherein the protein comprises a serum albumin.

15. The conjugate of claim 1, wherein the fluorescent compound has an excitation wavelength of 630 nm or greater or 450 nm or less.

16. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the conjugate of claim 1 and an acceptable carrier or excipient.